

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A maintenance station for a printer, comprising:
 - a fixed support housing;
 - a sled supported on said support housing and being movable relative to said support housing in both a horizontal direction and a vertical direction; and
- 5 a spit containment device configured to receive spit ink, said spit containment device having a fixed vertical position and being horizontally movable in response to movement of said sled.
2. The maintenance station of claim 1, wherein said spit containment device comprises a chimney.
3. The maintenance station of claim 2, wherein said support housing is coupled to said chimney.
4. The maintenance station of claim 3, wherein said coupling of said support housing to said chimney prevents said chimney from moving in the vertical direction relative to said support housing.
5. The maintenance station of claim 4, wherein said support housing includes at least one substantially horizontal slot, said chimney having at least one projection received in said at least one slot.
6. The maintenance station of claim 5, wherein said slot is substantially parallel to the horizontal direction.
7. The maintenance station of claim 2, wherein said sled includes an opening, said chimney being received in said opening.
8. The maintenance station of claim 7, wherein said opening includes at least one substantially vertical slot, said chimney having at least one substantially vertical rib, each said rib being received in a corresponding said vertical slot.
9. The maintenance station of claim 2, further comprising at least one of a printhead cap and a printhead wiper attached to said sled.
10. The maintenance station of claim 9, wherein said chimney is disposed adjacent to said at least one of a printhead cap and a printhead wiper.
11. An ink jet printer, comprising:
 - a printhead; and
 - a maintenance station including:
 - a fixed support housing;

5 a sled supported on said support housing and being movable relative to
said support housing in both a horizontal direction and a vertical direction; and
a spit containment device configured to receive ink spit from said
printhead, said spit containment device having a fixed vertical position relative
to said printhead and being horizontally movable in response to movement of
10 said sled.

12. The printer of claim 11, wherein said spit containment device comprises a
chimney.

13. The printer of claim 12, wherein said support housing is coupled to said
chimney.

14. The printer of claim 13, wherein said coupling of said support housing to
said chimney prevents said chimney from moving in the vertical direction relative to
said support housing.

15. The printer of claim 14, wherein said support housing includes at least one
substantially horizontal slot, said chimney having at least one projection received in
said at least one slot.

16. The printer of claim 15, wherein said slot is substantially parallel to the
horizontal direction.

17. The printer of claim 12, wherein said sled includes an opening, said
chimney being received in said opening.

18. The printer of claim 17, wherein said opening includes at least one
substantially vertical slot, said chimney having at least one substantially vertical rib,
each said rib being received in a corresponding said vertical slot.

19. The printer of claim 12, further comprising at least one of a printhead cap
and a printhead wiper attached to said sled.

20. The printer of claim 19, wherein said chimney is disposed adjacent to said
at least one of a printhead cap and a printhead wiper.

21. The printer of claim 12, wherein a gap between said chimney and said
printhead is not greater than approximately 1.0 mm when said chimney receives the
ink spit from said printhead.

22. A maintenance station for a printer, comprising:
a fixed support housing;

a sled supported on said support housing and being movable relative to said support housing in both a horizontal direction and a vertical direction; and

- 5 a spit containment device configured to receive spit ink, said spit containment device having a fixed vertical position and being horizontally movable relative to said support housing.

23. The maintenance station of claim 22, wherein said spit containment device comprises a chimney.

24. The maintenance station of claim 23, wherein said support housing is coupled to said chimney.

25. The maintenance station of claim 24, wherein said coupling of said support housing to said chimney prevents said chimney from moving in the vertical direction relative to said support housing.

26. The maintenance station of claim 25, wherein said support housing includes at least one substantially horizontal slot, said chimney having at least one projection received in said at least one slot.

27. The maintenance station of claim 26, wherein said slot is substantially parallel to the horizontal direction.

28. The maintenance station of claim 23, wherein said sled includes an opening, said chimney being received in said opening.

29. The maintenance station of claim 28, wherein said opening includes at least one substantially vertical slot, said chimney having at least one substantially vertical rib, each said rib being received in a corresponding said vertical slot.

30. The maintenance station of claim 23, further comprising at least one of a printhead cap and a printhead wiper attached to said sled.

31. The maintenance station of claim 30, wherein said chimney is disposed adjacent to said at least one of a printhead cap and a printhead wiper.